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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION**

<http://fishandgame.lacountycommissions.info/>

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, B-50, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1431 Fax (213) 633-5102
To enrich lives through effective and caring service

March 13, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

11 March 13, 2012

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**FISH AND GAME PROPAGATION FUND GRANT AWARD
(THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT)
(3-VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval to award grant funds from the Fish and Game Commission to the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM) for the Malibu Water Quality Probe Maintenance Program.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the Fish and Game Propagation Fund Grant request in the amount of \$3,977 to the RCDSMM, for the Malibu Water Quality Probe Maintenance Program to replace damaged recording data sondes probes and to purchase necessary solutions to calibrate the probes situated at a permanent data transmission station in the Malibu Creek Watershed, located in the Santa Monica Mountains.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Commission has determined that the grant request will promote education, conservation and the propagation of fish and game thus benefiting the County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

At its meeting held January 12, 2012, the Commission approved the enclosed grant request in the amount of \$3,977 to the RCDSMM, to replace damaged recording data probes and to purchase necessary solutions to calibrate the probes situated at a permanent data transmission station in the Malibu Creek Watershed, located in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The replacement of recording data probes and purchase of solutions for calibrating the probes is necessary to monitor and identify potentially lethal conditions that could impact southern steelhead trout. The probes will document and collect information on water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity and chlorophyll a, in Malibu Creek between March and November by deploying continuous recording sondes attached to a permanent station that can transmit data for remote access.

Southern steelhead trout are an iconic fish species, especially in the Santa Monica Bay. National Marine Fisheries Service estimates that only 500 anadromous adults are left. Malibu Creek presents both historic and critical habitat for this federally endangered species. Identifying water quality parameters that may have contributed to the die-off in 2006, and the conditions compromising the habitat quality of the Creek is essential to making informed management plans to prevent future impacts.

Since 1952, the Commission continues to support activities and projects that promote the best methods for the propagation and protection of fish and game in the State of California and Los Angeles County.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Providing funds for this improvement is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 3 (Community and Municipal Services). In addition to enhancing the community's knowledge and understanding of conservation and the propagation of fish and game, the improvement will provide data for making informed management plans to protect this critical habitat and prevent future impacts which could compromise the habitat quality.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no impact on the General Fund. The approved expenditure will be charged to the Fish and Game Propagation Fund, which has sufficient funds to cover the cost.

The Los Angeles County Fish and Game Propagation Fund is financed from a percentage of penalty assessments collected relating to fish and game code violations in Los Angeles County.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 13100 of the Fish and Game Code establishes guidelines for the expenditure of fines levied for fish and game code violations. It includes enhancing fish and game activities including propagation, protection and restoration; supporting fish and wildlife projects; and furthering research and education in areas related to fish and wildlife.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

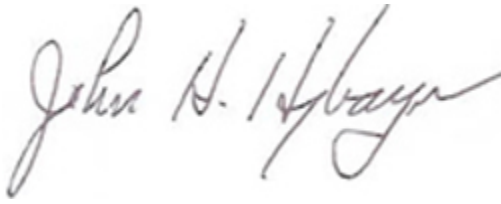
This Board action enhances the education, conservation and the propagation of fish and game thus benefiting County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

3/13/2012

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John H. Hybarger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

JOHN H. HYBARGER

Chairman

JHH:ma

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

GRANT APPLICATION TITLE PAGE

TITLE OF PROJECT/PROGRAM Malibu Water Quality Probe Maintenance

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT Third District

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT CONTACT Susan Nissman

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT DEPUTY Susan Nissman

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S) 818-880-9416

DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains
[As it appears on (501) (c) (3) IRS Letter] (If applicable)

ADDRESS PO Box 638


CITY Agoura Hills STATE CA ZIP CODE 91376-0638

TELEPHONE NUMBER 818-597-8627 x102 FAX NUMBER 818-597-8630

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$3,977

AUDITED TOTAL INCOME \$707,802 AUDITED TOTAL EXPENSES \$761,206

FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 2009 AND ENDING 2010


SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE

1/6/12
DATE

Note: Please complete this title page and attach all grant application materials prior to submission. If you have any question you may contact the Fish and Game Commission staff at (213) 974-1431.

For all areas that are not applicable, please indicate N/A in area.

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One Page Project Summary

Water quality problems are a continuing concern in Malibu Creek, especially as they impact endangered southern steelhead trout (*Onchorynchus mykiss*). In 2006, we documented a complete die-off of all trout (and other less sensitive aquatic species) related to a temperature spike and associated algal decay. In 2009, we again observed a partial decline of these sensitive fish, and were able to borrow and deploy three continuously recording data sondes, that collected temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity and chlorophyll a. We were also able to borrow and deploy these probes again in 2010. In October 2011, a partnership with National Park Service and California State University Channel Islands was initiated, resulting in the installation of a permanent station to which a sonde can be attached and the information continuously accessed remotely via Internet. Unfortunately, some of the probes for the sonde have been damaged and need to be replaced. This proposal requests assistance in replacing the damaged probes and purchasing the necessary solutions to calibrate the probes, which would allow us to deploy these sondes in summer 2012.

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Background on Applicant:

Purpose and goals:

The RCDSMM has provided important resource management information to our constituents since 1961. We have a long history of research, education, outreach and implementation of watershed planning and restoration within the Santa Monica Mountains.

Brief summary of current activities:

The research and education team at the RCDSMM has been coordinating studies in the Malibu Creek Watershed since 1984 when the lagoon was initially restored. We have been conducting monthly monitoring of southern steelhead trout since 2005, supported by grants from CDFG Fisheries Restoration Program.

Geographic area served:

The boundaries of the RCDSMM extend from Encino to Thousand Oaks, from the Chatsworth reservoir south to the ocean, and Catalina Island. The focus of this effort will be Malibu Creek.

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Major sources and dollar amounts of corporate, foundation and government support during current and past fiscal year:

Funding for our southern steelhead trout monitoring efforts in Malibu, Topanga, and Arroyo Sequit Creeks has been provided by the CDFG Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. Our current grant funding continues until March 2013, and the total award was \$130,197.00. Unfortunately, the grant does not cover the costs associated with repairing or maintaining the sondes. It does cover the personnel costs by incorporating maintenance and calibration activities with monthly snorkel surveys.

History of all grants received from the Los Angeles County Fish and Game Commission:

The RCDSMM has not received any grants from the Fish and Game Commission to date.

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Project Information

Statement of justification of need:

Southern steelhead trout are an iconic fish species, especially in the Santa Monica Bay. At present, NMFS estimates that only 500 anadromous adults are left, and Malibu Creek is both a historic and present critical habitat for this federally endangered species. Identifying water quality parameters that may have contributed to the die-off in 2006, and that are currently compromising the habitat quality of the creek, is essential to making informed management plans to prevent future impacts.

Statement of purpose and goals:

The purpose of this grant is to continuously document water temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen in Malibu Creek between March and November by deploying a continuously recording sonde attached to a permanent station that can transmit data for remote access.

The goal is to identify potentially lethal conditions (high water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen) that could impact southern steelhead trout so that these conditions could be mediated and/or the fish rescued in a timely fashion.

Action plan to meet objectives:

The permanent station is in place. We need two functional sondes (each having probes to collect water temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH data) from March through November. In addition to functional probes, the sondes are calibrated and downloaded monthly as part of regular snorkel surveys (funded by CDFG).

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Statement of how the objectives advance the propagation and protection of fish and wildlife:

Southern steelhead trout are tolerant of higher water temperatures, but the lethal thermal maximum, and how this interacts in the real world with decreased dissolved oxygen levels, and dense, decaying algal mats is not clear. Only by obtaining continuous data during events when conditions are stressful, will we be able to understand the synergistic relationships of these physical parameters and potential impacts to the trout.

Project budget and timetable:

Project start: April 2012 Project end: November 2012

Budget:

Troll 9000 data sonde probe replacement and service x 2 (\$1,654@)	\$3,308
Calibration solutions - Quick-Cal for Dissolved oxygen x 4(\$69@)	\$ 207
Installation locks, batteries and misc. hardware	\$100
RCDSMM Administration (10%)	\$362
TOTAL BUDGET REQUESTED	\$3,977

Sources of other support for project:

CDFG Fisheries Restoration Grant No P1050009 provides a total of \$130,197, which will cover all personnel costs.

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Current status of project:

The permanent station, including solar powered batteries and wireless modem connection to the sonde mount, was installed in October 2011. NPS and CSUCI have each provided an In-Situ Troll 9000 data sonde to be used for this project.

Cash flow analysis of the expenditure of project funds:

Funds will be allocated to cover probe repair and purchase of calibration solutions starting in April 2012. The RCDSMM invoices for expenditures monthly, providing documentation of actual costs.

Proposed method of evaluating results:

A Technical Advisory Committee comprised of local experts has been in place since 2006, and meet on an as-needed basis. They have reviewed and vetted our calibration and deployment procedures, as well as the Quality Assurance/Quality Control protocol used to review all data as it is downloaded and analyzed. Data is shared with the TAC for their review and to assist in making management plans to respond to problems as they arise.

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Plans for funding on-going project (if applicable):

Our goal is to find continuous funding for water quality monitoring in Malibu Creek to compliment the information gathered monthly during snorkel surveys. Fortunately, the situation encountered in 2006 that resulted in the die-off of all aquatic species below Rindge Dam has not returned, but since we were not able to clearly identify a causal agent for that event, it seems prudent to continue as much monitoring as possible in case it should occur again. Now that the infrastructure for the permanent station is in place, we hope to include on-going maintenance, repair and calibration costs into the next CDFG grant proposal. However, we will not be submitting that proposal until spring 2013, so funding for the interim is critical.

Please Attach the Following Supporting Documents, if applicable:

- Copy of the Latest IRS Determination Letter of Tax Exempt Status under Section 501(c) (3)
- Organization's Most Recent Audited Financial Statement
- Organization Most Recent IRS Form 990



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF THE
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

818.597.8627 | phone

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info@rcdsmm.org

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Mail: PO Box 638, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-0638

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January 4, 2012

County of Los Angeles
Fish and Game Commission

Dear Commissioners,

In compliance with the request for supporting documents relevant to the fiscal status of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica (RCDSMM), we provide the following information.

The RCDSMM, a subdivision of the State of California, is a local special district organized under division 9 of the CA Public Resources Code.

Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 115 states that the gross income of a subdivision of a state is not taxable by the Federal government.

IRC Section 170(c)(1) states that contributions to subdivisions of a state are tax deductible as long as they are used for public purposes.

Therefore, the RCDSMM does not submit forms or pay federal income tax and contributions to the RCDSMM are tax deductible.

We appreciate the support of Supervisor Yaroslavsky for our efforts to provide important resource management information that will help protect and preserve the Santa Monica Mountains.

Sincerely,

John Hendra
Operations Manager